

been providing financial assistance for this programme and has asked for certain clarification in this respect.

(c) No, Sir.

National Highway No. 37

754. **Shri R. Barua:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether any census of traffic load over National Highway No. 37 has been taken and if so with what results;

(b) whether the financial sanction for the estimate of widening and strengthening the hard crest of National Highway No. 37 from Bagarai 129/5F to Kakodonga 179/5F have been accorded and, if not, the reasons for this delay; and

(c) whether the Kakodonga bridge on this road is likely to be completed before the rains?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir.

Traffic census was taken on N. H. 37 in January 1963 at certain specified points and was found to vary from 1077 tons per day at mile 107 to 3386 tons per day at mile 82.

(b) The estimate for widening and strengthening the portion between Bagarai Mile 129/5 to Kakodonga Mile 179/5 is under examination and will be cleared shortly.

(c) The new Kakodonga bridge is expected to be completed by August 1966; it is, however, expected to be traffic worthy before the next monsoon.

Utilisation of Fertilizers

755. **Shri M. Rampure:**
Shri Kankasabai:
Shri Mohammed Koya:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any machinery set up by the Central Government to ensure that the fertilizers given to the

States are distributed to the cultivators at a price fixed for it and that no middleman makes profit in the process; and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). The Central Fertilisers Pool is the sole buyer in India and the sole importer of the following nitrogenous fertilizers:

(i) Sulphate of Ammonia.

(ii) Urea.

(iii) Ammonium Sulphate Nitrate.

(iv) Calcium Ammonium Nitrate.

These nitrogenous fertilizers are supplied to the State Governments at a uniform rate F.O.R. despatching Station, freight being paid by Government of India upto the railhead destination. The allottees are permitted to add a fixed distribution margin to the Pool price, depending on the kind of fertiliser, while selling it to the cultivators. The distribution margin includes administrative charges incurred by the State Government, transport charges from the nearest railhead, interest charges, commission to the authorised dealers at different levels etc. The cultivators' prices so arrived at the notified in the Gazette of India. The State Governments also give wide publicity to these prices in local languages.

The State Governments have been delegated powers under the Fertiliser Control Order, 1957 to take action against dealers who charge higher rates than the notified prices. Offenders are punishable under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act.

Ammonium phosphate and ammonium chloride are also being imported and distributed by the Central Pool at fixed Pool prices, with a view to popularising and creating a market for them in advance of their production in the factories being set up in India. The State Governments who

have been allotted these fertilisers have been advised to sell these fertilisers after adding a fixed distribution margin. Small quantities of these two fertilisers are also produced by factories in India. These are sold by them directly through their own distributors or to the State Governments at ex-factory prices fixed by the Government of India. Cultivators' prices of these fertilisers have not been statutorily controlled because there is no pooling of prices and because a free market is allowed to indigenous producers of these fertilisers.

Phosphatic fertilisers and Potassic fertilisers are distributed by the manufacturers/importers either directly or through the State Government's agents. The ex-factory/ex-jetty/ex-godown prices of these fertilisers are, however, fixed by Government by negotiation.

Middlemen like wholesalers and retailers, who are mostly cooperatives, are essential for the distribution of fertilisers and they have to be paid an adequate commission to cover their expenses and a reasonable return on their investment.

Warehouse at Haldwani

756. Shri K. C. Pant: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct a warehouse at Haldwani in U.P. for storing foodgrains for the adjoining hill areas;

(b) if so, when the warehouse will be constructed; and

(c) if not, the measures adopted by Government for maintaining buffer stocks of foodgrains to tide over the recurring difficulty regarding food supplies experienced by hill areas?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The responsibility for maintaining buffer stock of foodgrains at convenient centres to tide over local difficulties is that of the State Government. The Central Government, however, make allocations to State Governments from the stock of foodgrains available with them.

Hill Stations in U.P.

757. Shri K. C. Pant: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of tourists visiting hill stations in Uttar Pradesh has increased considerably;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the accommodation available in the hill stations is costly and inadequate;

(c) whether Government propose to set up hotels for middle class tourists at reasonable charges in the above hill resorts; and

(d) if not, whether the Tourist Department propose to grant loans to private entrepreneurs willing to set up hotels for middle class tourists?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Information is being collected from the State Government. It will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No Sir.

(d) No Sir. Financial assistance to private entrepreneurs for setting up hotels is available through the Industrial Finance Corporation and/or State Financial Corporations.

Rotting of Wheat in sheds of Calcutta Port Commissioners

758. Shri Himatsingka: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news-item in the *Hindustan Standard* (Calcutta edition) dated the 24th October, 1965 to the effect that One thousand